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EDITORIAL

"Marvel's Top Ten"
by **Jim Salicrup**

A recent letter:

Dear Gang,

I've been a Marvel fan for years and I always wanted to know which titles sold the best. My proposal is that **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** print the top ten comics each month. I think many readers would enjoy this. How 'bout getting some reader reaction?

John Manthey
514 Forest Street
Kearney, New Jersey

We've been receiving many requests like yours, John! After all, if records, books, movies, radio, television and sports can have such lists, why can't Marvel? So I asked the world's tallest Editor-in-Chief, **Jim Shooter**, what he thought of the idea and he said he loved it! He also pointed out a few of the problems that would pop up in preparing the list. First off, it takes at least six months from the time a title goes *off* sale to tally the final sales figures. Remember, Marvel comics are not only distributed to newsstands coast to coast by the friendly folks at the Curtis Circulation Company. There's also about a dozen Direct Sales Distributors shipping our mags to selected outlets all across the nation, and our very own sensational Subscription Department, headed by **Kathy Beekman**, supplying thousands of Marvelites with their comics despite the Post Office! Once **Nestor Cordero**, from our Circulation Department, assembles the list it'll take another two or three months to publish it here in **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**. But we'll try anything at least once and in this case probably a few times! So without any further ado, here's **MARVEL'S TOP TEN TITLES** for the February 1983 cover-dated comics:

1 – X-MEN #166
2 – FANTASTIC FOUR #251
3 – AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #237
4 – AVENGERS #228
5 – DAREDEVIL #191
6 – PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #75
7 – CONAN #143
8 – MARVEL TEAM-UP #126
9 – INCREDIBLE HULK #280
10 – IRON MAN #167

So there you have it! Was it worth it? You tell us!

SALICRUP

MARVEL AGEnda:

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MARVEL COMING ATTRACTIONS

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SHUSH, RAHNE-- DON'T LET HER KNOW WE'RE HERE.
SHE WANTS TO BE ALONE, SO WE'LL LET HER WORK THINGS OUT FOR HERSELF, AT LEAST FOR NOW. WE'LL KEEP AN EYE ON HER, THOUGH, IN CASE SHE NEEDS US.

NEW MUTANTS by Buscema and Mandrake.

Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all Marvel titles bearing a **May** cover date. **A Limited Series** is a title that will only run for a specific number of issues. **A Graphic Novel** is a trade-paperback sized edition. **A Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets. **Shipping date** refers to the date the comics leave the printer. *A word to the wise*: please tell your comics specialty shop owner which titles you wish to buy as soon as possible! Marvel Comics sell out so fast that unless your comics shop owner knows which titles you want, you may not get them!

Titles shipping **January 3**, on sale **January 24**:

THE THING #11—Last month, **the Thing** mysteriously disappered! This month, he *doesn't* come back! Where is he? What is he doing there? See why writer, penciler, and inker **John Byrne** called this one "The Further Adventures of Rocky Grimm, Space Adventurer!" You'll love it!

DAREDEVIL #206—**Foggy Nelson's** wife is in trouble—and only **Daredevil** can help! But **Daredevil's** fighting for his life against **Micah Syn**, whom we all know as . . . "The Chief!" Also, the return of an old friend, and the appearance of the newest lady to steal **Matt Murdock's** heart . . . **Gloriana O'Breen**! Written by **Denny O'Neil**, penciled by **William Johnson**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**.

NEW MUTANTS #15—**Kitty Pryde** is caught in the clutches of the **Hellfire Club**—and with **the X-Men** having mysteriously disappeared, only **the New Mutants** are around to save her! Are they up to the task? "Scaredy-Cat" guest stars **Cloak** and **Dagger**, and is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Sal Buscema**, and inked by **Tom Mandrake**.

DAZZLER #32—The story's called "Catfight!" And it features the wildest *all-girl barroom brawl* of all time! What chance does **the Dazzler's** mutant light power stand against flying fists and scratching nails? And how did she get into this in the first place? **Jim Shooter** wrote it, **Frank Springer** penciled it, and **Mike Esposito** inked it! And **Bill Sienkiewicz** painted the cover!

CONAN THE KING #22—At last, **King Conan** has a clue to his son's killers! But with a deadly poison coursing through his blood, he's too sick to go after them! That's where "The Black Dragons" come in! And they're the most fearsome fighting force in the whole Hyborean Age! Written by **Alan Zelenetz** and penciled by **Geof Isherwood**. Cover by **Michael Wm. Kaluta**. 48 pp. $1.

KITTY AND WOLVERINE (Limited Series) #1—What is the secret of **Kitty Pryde's** father? You *may* find out—if **Ariel** doesn't lose her life in the search! An all new Limited Series starring two of **the X-Men's** best, written by **Chris Claremont**, and penciled and inked by **Al Milgrom**! And it takes place in . . . Hong Kong!

SIX FROM SIRIUS #2—The saga continues! **Jacosa Lone**, leader of the most outlandish adventuring troupe of all, encounters what can only be called . . . **Phadra**! Written by **Doug Moench** and drawn in full-color by **Paul Gulacy**. Perhaps their greatest work! From the Epic Comics Line! $1.50. 32 pp. High quality Hudson stock.

Titles shipping **January 10**, on sale **January 31**:

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #252—Last issue, **Spidey** mysteriously disappeared! This month he's back—and is he glad to be *home*! If only he didn't have so many troubles with his *new costume*! That's right—a new costume for **Spider-Man**, and it's not the only surprise in "Homecoming!" Written by **Roger Stern**, penciled by **John Romita, Jr.** Guest-starring **Dr. Curt Connors**!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #293—Who is **the Slayer**? Is he really the man whom **Captain America** befriended and trusted? Or is he the pawn of **Cap's** most sinister foe? You may find out . . . before Cap loses his life in the eeriest battle of his career! Guest-starring **Baron Zemo**! Written by **J.M. DeMatteis**, and penciled and inked by **Paul Neary**.
(This tale was originally slated for issue #292! The story that will appear in # 292 was originally scheduled for #291! **CAP #291** will feature "To Tame A Tumbler" by **Bill Mantlo**, **Herb Trimpe**, and **Jack Abel**—wherein the son of the weirdest Cap villain of all returns to avenge his dad!)

THOR #343—A battle royal in New York City as **Fafnir** destroys—and **Thor** defends! But is **Thor's** might enough— when his partner **Eilif's** strength wanes by the minute? Someone will go to Valhalla by the end of the conflagration—who shall it be? Guest-starring **Lorelei**, **Karnilla**, and **Balder the Brave**! Written, penciled and inked by **Walt Simonson**. See for yourself why this mag is selling out faster than ever!

INDIANA JONES #17—**Indy** and **Marion** are in Greece—searching for information about **Marion's** dead father—a man **Indy** hated—but is sworn to help **Marion** find! Bats, cultists, and even a minotaur stand in the way! And by the time our adventurers reach the Himalayas—watch out! Written by **David Michelinie** and penciled by **Herb Trimpe**.

SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #99—All was well until the Queen took over! And now, no one is safe—not the citizens—not the thieves—not even **Conan**! The battling barbarian fights for the sake of an ancient city—but even *he* is vulnerable when "The Informer" informs! Plot and pencils by **John Buscema**, script by **Michael Fleisher**,. $1.50. A Marvel Magazine.

MOON KNIGHT #37—Whatever happened to **Marc Spector's** father? The answer is horrifying! **Moon Knight** travels to Chicago, to take the corpse from the clutches of an evil magician—and the evil magician turns out to be... we won't tell ya! Written by **Alan Zelenetz**, penciled and inked by **Bo Hampton**. 75¢. High quality Mando stock. Direct Sales only.

MICRONAUTS #58—The final chapter in the war against **Baron Karza**! *All* the storylines come together in this remarkable issue—and we won't tell you who wins! A climactic conclusion written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Butch Guice**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. 75¢. High quality Mando stock. Direct Sales only.

Tarzan by Dan Spiegle.

CRYSTAR #7—The origin of **Malachon**! So far, he's been a neutral enemy of both the molten and the crystal peoples—now find out why he's leading a savage group of fighters in a brutal attack against **Galax**! And find out why **Crystar** must defend—or die! *Plus*—a special behind-the-scenes at **Order's** realm, where both **Ogeode** and **Ika** hail from! Written by **Jo Duffy**, penciled by **Ricardo Villamonte** and inked by **Dave Simons**.

TARZAN OF THE APES (Limited Series) #2—The wrap-up! Part two of the original classic of **Edgar Rice Burroughs' Tarzan**! Presented in all its jungle glory by **Mark Evanier** and **Sharman DiVona**, writers, and **Dan Spiegle**, artist! A must for the true collector!

The Gargoyle by Alan Kupperberg.

Titles shipping **January 17**; on sale **February 7**:

INCREDIBLE HULK #295—Last issue, **the Hulk** mysteriously disappeared! Now he's back—on crutches and seriously wounded! So he's in no shape to deal with the menace of **Boomerang**! Meanwhile, **Dr. Banner's** gamma-ray treatments are creating a whole *new* menace! It's a "Turning Point," written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Sal Buscema**, and inked by **Gerry Talaoc**!

AVENGERS #243—With the other **Avengers** missing in a far-off land, what will happen back home when **the Vision** appoints himself chairman of the mightiest super-team of all? Untold shocks, courtesy of **Roger Stern**, writer, **Al Milgrom**, penciler, and **Joe Sinnott**, inker!

CONAN THE BARBARIAN #158—Is she a helpless girl—are they friendly tribesmen—is **Conan** safe? When a marauding wolf-creature attacks, it's unlikely friends versus *unlikelier* enemies! "The Night of the Wolf" is plotted and drawn by **John Buscema**, scripted by **Michael Fleisher**, and inked by **Ernie Chan**!

MARVEL TALES #163—"Captured by J. Jonah Jameson!" Re-presenting the classic **SPIDER-MAN** #25 by **Stan Lee** and **Steve Ditko**! Enjoy!

X-MEN #184—When **the X-Men** return to Earth from their "mysterious disappearance", they find themselves . . . in Tokyo! Everything would be only *normally* confused for our mutants, if they didn't *now* have to contend with a giant dragon! Amidst all this, shocking *revelations*, and a guest appearance by **Sunfire**! "Tokyo Story" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Romita, Jr.**, and inked by **Dan Green**.

ROM #54—What's causing the problems in Atlanta, Georgia? When innocent people are involved, guest-stars **Nick Fury** and **SHIELD**, and **Doctor Strange** get involved! And when **the Dire Wraiths** launch a *new* plan against mankind, our spaceknight **Rom** steps in! It's called "Blood Trail"—and it signals a Wraith war in full gear! Also guest-starring **Rick Jones**! Written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Sal Buscema**, and inked by **Mel Candido**.

POWER MAN AND IRON FIST #105—**The Fist** and **Cage** are off again—on the most turbulent trial of their careers! And we ain't just whistling dixie either—because this issue's being done by a special *surprise writer*! Pencils by **Greg LaRocque**. It's gonna be dynamite, friends!

G.I. JOE #23—A massive funeral service for **General Flagg**—and the somber silence is shattered—by a **Cobra** attack! Meanwhile, meet **the Joe's** latest member—**Duke**! We think he's too much to be believed—and he'll be coming out as a *toy* later on this year! Also in this action-packed issue, a very *different* kind of funeral for **Quinn the Eskimo**, and **the Joe's** get a new leader! Written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Mike Vosberg**, and inked by **Jon D'Agostino**.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #14—Four out of five dentists surveyed recommend **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** for their patients who love Marvel Comics! Because it features new talent, news, and articles about your favorite Bullpen celebrities! Because it's sugarless! Special Note: Starting with issue #13 **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** will be printed on Mando paper and will only cost 35¢! A bargain at twice the price!

MARVEL FANFARE #14—For those of you who have demanded **the Vision** in a solo adventure—your day has come! **Roger McKenzie** wrote, **Ricardo Vilamonte** penciled, and **Joe Rubenstein** inked this story of our incredible synthozoid **Avenger**—and it guest-stars **the Fantastic Four**! Also this month—an all-new **Quicksilver** story, written by **Jo Duffy**, penciled and inked by **Alan Weiss**! High quality Ronalds stock, Direct Sales only. $1.50.

EPIC ILLUSTRATED #23—The full-color conclusion of "**Marada the She Wolf!**" Also, the continuing chapters of "The Sacred and the Profane" and "Generation Zero," and—as if that isn't enough for ya—a cover painting by **John Bolton**! $2.50. A Marvel Magazine.

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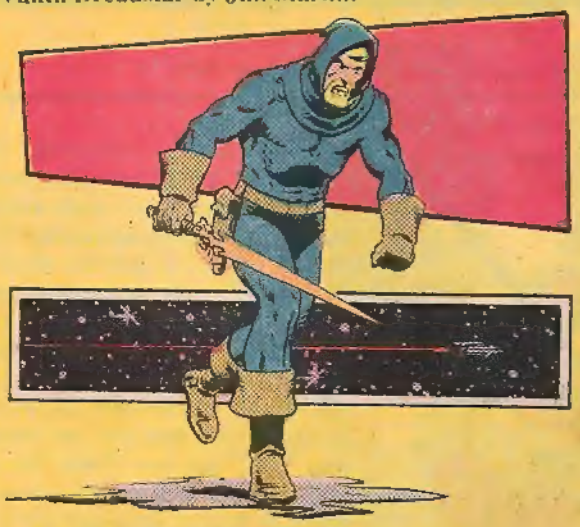
Vanth Dreadstar by Jim Starlin.



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Titles shipping **January 24**, on sale **February 14**:

FANTASTIC FOUR #266—"**Karisma**" is her name! One glance at her lovely face—and men will do *anything* for her! And that includes the ever-lovin' blue-eyed **Thing!** What will she have **Benjamin J. Grimm** do? Read it and find out! Special guest penciler **Kerry Gammil**, writer and inker **John Byrne**!

MARVEL TEAM-UP #141—**Daredevil** and **the Black Widow** know that **Spider-Man** has the evidence to clear a wrongly accused boy of murder! But **Spider-Man** is nowhere to be found, having himself "mysteriously disappeared!" Part Two of a special surprise shocker written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Ron Frenz**, and inked by **Mike Esposito**!

IRON MAN #182—**Tony Stark** makes the decision! You'll want to *be* there! What decision is that? Simply the most important one of his life! Meanwhile, **Rhodey** has returned from his mysterious disappearance with all-new *armor*—and **Iron Man** will never be the same again! A tale of triumph and tragedy by **Denny O'Neil**, writer, **Luke McDonnell**, penciler, and **Steve Mitchell**, inker!

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #90—Well, it looks like **Black Cat** has finally done it! She's gotten what she's always wanted! Too bad she had to enter into the clutches of **the Kingpin** to do it! What will **Spider-Man** have to say? More Marvel milestones written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Al Milgrom**, and inked by **Jim Mooney**!

THE NEW DEFENDERS #131—See **the Beast** on his college lecture tour! See **the Walrus** attack him! See guest-star **Frog-Man** leap into action! See a homage to **the Beatles**! See the relationship between **Cloud** and **Moondragon** take a stange turn! *Read* "My Brilliant Career," plotted by **J.M. DeMatteis**, scripted by **Peter B. Gillis**, and penciled and inked by **Alan Kupperberg**!

STAR WARS #83—Time is running out! The imperial doomsday machine is about to cause armageddon—galaxy-wide! It's up to **Luke** and his band of con men to save the cosmos! And **Danny the Zeltron** and **Kiro** are in this one, too! "Countdown!" is written by **Jo Duffy**, penciled by **Ron Frenz**,and inked by **Tom Palmer**!

ALPHA FLIGHT #10—It looks like **Sasquatch** has got his solo battle won—until the deadly secret of his enemy's identity comes out—and he realizes he must save his enemy's life! Featuring a back-up feature detailing the origin of **Northstar**! Both stories written, penciled, and inked by **John Byrne**!

DREADSTAR #9—**Vanth** finally learns what lies behind the mask of the vizier named **Z**! But he pays a *price* for that knowledge—a price beyond his wildest reckoning! "Confrontation!" is the title, and it's written, penciled, and inked by **Jim Starlin**! $1.50. High quality Baxter paper. From the Epic comics line. Direct Sales only.

HERCULES (Limited Series) #3—Not now! Now here! Not the menace of **Thanos**! Unfortunately, yes! When the powerful nega-bands of the original **Captain Marvel** are discovered, then death is in store for **Hercules**! But **Hercules** must also try to prevent the death of **Apollo**! It all takes place on **Titan**, and it's written, penciled and inked by **Bob Layton**!

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (Limited Series) #1—**Dazzler** is exposed to the world as a mutant and is forced to go "underground!" **The Beast** becomes obsessed with her and must battle a band of strange, displaced mutants for her! This is just the beginning of an *impossible* love story. Plus **Dazzler's** powers threaten to kill her! All this and **Doctor Doom** too! Written by **Ann Nocenti**, penciled by **Don Perlin**, and inked by **Kim DeMulder**.

MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVEL #11—**HEARTBURST!**—Written and drawn by **Rick Veitch**, **HEARTBURST** is an outer space love story—with commercial interruptions! Meet **Sunoco Firestone**, protagonist on a planet oppressed by ancient televison broadcasts from Earth! Meet his love—a native girl named **Maia**! See their struggle against all odds—and all sponsors! 48 pp. Full color. Trade papaerback. $4.95.

Note: The information that appears in "Coming Attractions" is as complete and accurate as we can manage. Occasionally changes are made after this column is put together. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause!

Special Note: Ok, ok, ok! We owe you an explanation for why all your favorite Marvel heroes mysteriously disappeared—and then *re*-appeared, with all sorts of changes! Check out the **Newswatch** column in this issue of **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**—and all shall be revealed! ●●●

NEWSWATCH

Fresh, hot news — right out of the oven and ready to enjoy!

COSMIC CHAMPIONS by Mike Zeck and John Beatty.

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ITEM! We can't keep a secret any longer! We'll *tell* you where all of your favorite Marvel Super Heroes disappear to so mysteriously at the end of the April cover-date books! They're off on an incredible adventure which joins all the major Marvel characters, pitting an all-star line up of heroes against a most frightful assemblage of villains! An adventure which is so grand in scope that it takes a twelve-part special Limited Series to chronicle!

COSMIC CHAMPIONS is the name of this twelve-part extravaganza! It goes on sale in 1984! The whole shebang takes place in-between the April cover date books and the May cover date books! This multipart epic tells the story of **the Beyonder**, and his universe-wide quest which brings **Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four, the X-Men, the Hulk, the Avengers**, and many, many more into mortal combat with **Doctor Doom, Galactus, Kang, Doctor Octopus, Magneto**, and more macabre bad guys! It's the most far-reaching, as well as the most well-coordinated effort that has ever taken place in the history of the Marvel Universe!

COSMIC CHAMPIONS will do more than detail an awesome adventure — it'll explain the many *changes* that many of Marvel's heroes have undergone! For example, you'll see how **Spider-Man** gets a new costume! How **the Fantastic Four** lose a member — and gain a member! How **the Incredible Hulk** gets wounded! And how **Kitty Pryde's** pet dragon, **Lockheed**, falls in love!

What more can we say? **COSMIC CHAMPIONS**, the most ambitious undertaking of its kind in the history of comics, will be written by **Jim Shooter**, penciled by **Mike Zeck**, and inked by **John Beatty**! Special commendations go to Editor **Tom DeFalco**, who's overseeing the whole thing! It'll be a monthly maxi-series, printed on high-quality Mando stock, each issue costing 75¢! And of course, it will be on sale everywhere, both Newsstands and Direct Sales outlets! We'd tell you not to miss it — but we don't think we *have* to!

ITEM! All of you who live in the Tri-State Area, that's in and around New York, and have Cable TV are sure to get a kick out of seeing a bunch of Marvel personnel on TV! They'll be appearing on a terrific show called **Bob Saland's** Comic Book Quiz, which starts this November on WNYE, Channel 25! Every Friday at 6:30, you'll be able to catch interviews with some of the top people in the field, on the show that tests your knowledge of comics, past and present!

ITEM! Speaking of TV, you're in for more excitement as **G. I. JOE** blazes across your video-screen next year! Four more **G. I. JOE** commercials, spotlighting Marvel's action magazine, are going to be broadcast nationwide during '84. The occasion is nothing less than the introduction of a handful of new **JOE** characters and vehicles, which will also be available in stores as brand-new toys from Hasbro! We'll give you the rundown right here. First, **Duke**, the new **JOE** leader, and **Storm-shadow**, a new Ninja member of **Cobra**, will premiere in **GI JOE #24**, along with a new **JOE** named **Roadblock**. You'll see the commercial highlighting their fantastic origin adventures starting next February. A deadly **Cobra** agent named **Zartan**, and his amazing Swamp-cruiser will burst into action in **GI JOE #25**, and you'll see it all featured in a national commercial starting in March! **Cobra's** new plane called the Tank-smasher is coming in **GI JOE #28**, announced in a national ad starting in June, and last, but not least, make way for the most fierce and villainous bad-guys *since* **Cobra, the Dread-nox**! They're coming in **GI JOE #30**, and you'll see them on TV starting in August!

ITEM! That's all the news for this month! Bon apetite! ●

IN YOUR FUTURE...

THE ALIEN LEGION™

SCRIPT: ALAN ZELENETZ
PENCILS: FRANK CIROCCO
INKS: TERRY AUSTIN

CREATED BY CARL POTTS
WITH ALAN ZELENETZ
AND FRANK CIROCCO

NEW FROM EPIC™ COMICS!

ON SALE SOON!

WOLVERINE AND Kitty Pryde

An advance look by Bill Slavicsek

Kitty Pryde. Her father is involved with the Japanese underworld and **Kitty** must decide whether to help him . . . or turn him in!

Wolverine. He is a warrior. He is also an **X-Man** and that means **Kitty** is "family" and he will do anything to keep her from getting killed!

Japan. It is a place of music and fascination that holds mystery, adventure, and perhaps, death!

Scheduled to appear the beginning of 1984, the **KITTY PRYDE AND WOLVERINE IN JAPAN Limited Series** promises to be a captivating moral drama that will explore **Kitty**'s relationship to the world she has come to know. Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled and inked by **Al Milgrom**, and edited by **Louise Jones**, **KITTY AND WOLVERINE** will take on some tough moral questions but will be a lot of fun, too.

Kitty Pryde, the fourteen year old mutant **Ariel** of the **Uncanny X-Men** is visiting her father, a prominent Illinois banker. Unknown to **Kitty**, her father has been involved with juggling and doctoring the bank's records in order to help the growing number of unemployed home owners in his community.

The bank's new owners, a Japanese firm, has also been using the bank illegally. They have been laundering ill-gotten funds through **Kitty**'s father's bank and now want him to assist them in their dishonest dealings. Knowing his recent activities, the Japanese blackmail him and, by phone, request his presence in Japan.

Kitty, ever the super hero, overhears the conversation and realizes that her father is being threatened by some badguys from Japan. With her mutant born phasing ability (the ability to pass through solid matter unharmed), **Kitty** sneaks aboard his airplane and follows her father to Japan. Her plan is simple. Once in Japan, **Kitty** will find out what the situation is, set it right, and rescue her father. After all, she is an **X-Man**.

So the stage is set for **KITTY AND WOLVERINE IN JAPAN**, a four-issue limited series that will teach **Kitty** something about the real world and explore her character as she grows and matures. Along the way she'll get involved with **Lady Mariko**, a good girl who, through no fault of her

Wolverine by Frank Miller and Joe Rubinstein.

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own, just happens to be the head of one of the biggest crime families in Japan. She'll also run into **Yukio**, the bad girl with a heart of gold, who happens to consider herself a ronin, a masterless samurai. Oh yes, there's also **Wolverine**, who has no small affection for all three.

"**Yukio** happens to find **Kitty** as she wanders around Japan," explained Louise Jones, editor of the popular **X-Men** titles. "**Wolverine** gets notified and comes after **Kitty**. In the meantime, **Kitty** has discovered her father's involvement with crime and that he's been doing bad stuff. **Kitty** has to come to terms with whether to help her father or turn him in. That's what the whole crux of the thing is. This is what **Kitty**'s big decision is, what she's going to do with her life, and the morality of what she chooses to do. That's the moral dilemma in the background of the story."

The story takes place in Japan, a land rich in mystery and excitement. "I think it's a magic place for everybody," said Lousie. "The armor is wonderful, the culture is wonderful, and it's so foreign. To us it's like the cowboys and indians are to them. They think it's exotic, strange, and fabulous and we echo these sentiments about their culture."

With the influx of Japanese comic books, movies, and television shows into America, Louise finds the introduction of their culture only natural. "I really do find it fascinating," she said. "Besides, those costumes are really great and they're fun to draw."

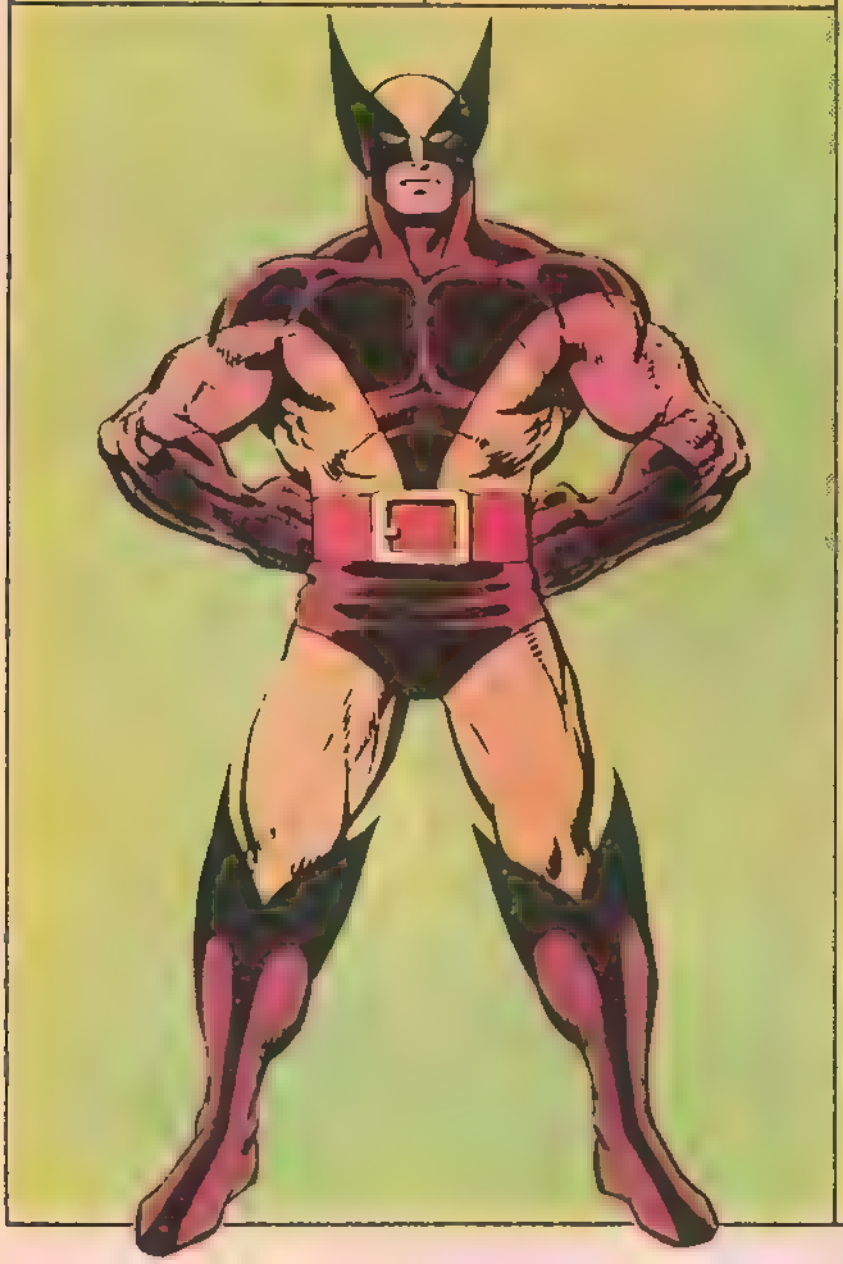
Penciler and inker Al Milgrom agrees. "I'm looking forward to it," said Al. "I think it will be a fun experience."

After stowing away and arriving in Japan, **Kitty** realizes that she has no money. One of **Kitty**'s powers is the ability to phase her hand into a computer and disrupt its operation. Japan is overflowing with computerized money machines and **Kitty** is placed in one of the series' many moral dilemmas. All she has to do is put her hand into the machine and it will go haywire and spit out lots of money. Is this a right thing to do or a wrong thing to do? Should she use her power or starve to death? To top this off, she is an illegal alien anyway. It is all a part of the overall moral drama.

"I think that important moral questions make great stories if you don't get too melodramatic," said Louise. "We accomplished it with **Wolverine**'s series and we hope to do it here as well."

Louise likes the concept of the limited series as a vehicle for usually group oriented characters. "The limited series gives you a chance to focus on a single character instead of all the characters at once," she explained. "It allows you to ask questions related to a specific character without getting a lot of other people and things involved. It gives you a chance to narrow the focus a little bit which is why I like to do a limited series about an **X-Man** character. We wouldn't take four issues out of the book to do just **Kitty** or just **Wolverine**. It would slight the other characters and would take up a third of the year. But it's nice to be able to do it in a limited series."

Al Milgrom is looking forward to doing it because it is giving him a chance to work with Chris Claremont again. "We worked together once before on an extremely complex issue of **CAPTAIN MARVEL**. He was thrown in at the last minute and had to tie up a million loose ends all in one issue. We both worked like dogs on it and we did a pretty good job. I've been looking forward to working with him again ever since. Besides, it will be a kick to do one of these limited series things. I've been doing regular deadline work for so long it will be nice to have some other for-



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mat to branch out into."

What makes a character like **Wolverine** work, especially in the confines of a group like the **X-Man** or in this series with **Kitty Pryde**? "**Wolverine** is a guy who is constantly caught on the verge of killing somebody," explained Louise. "His fascination with Japan and the Japanese way of life is that he admires the discipline. It is a discipline, a control, that he himself has to have over himself at every moment because if he lets loose, he kills. It's just that simple."

"It's his own war with himself that makes **Wolverine** interesting," Louise said. "He doesn't want to be a killer, but it is as natural for him as breathing. But beyond all this is his love for his friends. The **X-Men** are really family for him and he loves his family."

"**Kitty**, on the other hand, works because she's cute and she's funny," explained Louise. "She's a youngster in a group of older people and therefore gives a fresh vision to a lot of the stuff the others take for granted. A lot of questions she has and the turmoil she goes through is something that they are beyond, so she gives a younger dimension and insight into the book, characters, and stories. She provides freshness."

Al Milgrom, who has drawn the old black and yellow costumed **X-Men** and has inked a guest shot of the new **X-Men** in **ROM** is looking forward to trying his hand at these two characters.

"**Kitty**'s real cute but I think since she's a relatively young girl, she may provide a little bit of a problem for me," said Al, who tends toward the super hero type proportions with his female renditions. "But I look forward to the challenge and I think I'll have fun doing her."

"But **Wolverine** obviously will provide a lot of fun," Al continued. "He'll be real nitty and gritty and I'll walk around my apartment clawing the furniture as I get in the mood. I'll have a good time with him."

As for his handling of the overall book, Al explained, "I'll try to incorporate some of the previous artists use of the Japanese motifs and the somewhat more clean and design-oriented layouts instead of the more Kirbyish kind of people-pouring-out-of-every-panel stuff that I usually do. I'm going to try and organize my shapes a little differently and make it more clean, clear, and graphic."

Louise expects **Kitty** to mature a little in the series. "One of the things you do as a teenager, one of the jobs you have, is that you have to work out your own relationship with the world," Louise said. "This involves a moral relationship as well as a physical one. This series is going to help **Kitty** define what hers is going to be. It's really **Kitty**'s series. **Wolverine** is just there because he likes Japan a lot, he likes **Kitty** a lot, and he really doesn't want to see her get killed." ●

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HERCULES™
PRINCE OF POWER
LIMITED SERIES

by **Mark Lerer**

Remember the **HERCULES Limited Series** that Marvel did last year? Of course you do! The volume of mail we received on it was staggering. So many of you demanded *more* adventures of the Prince of Power that a *second* Limited Series starring **Hercules** became an inevitability! So, when **Jim Shooter** gave the word, storyteller **Bob Layton** jumped right in, penciling, inking, and writing the second **HERCULES Limited Series**. Bob loves working in comics, which is only natural since he's been reading them all his life. In fact, Bob bought **FANTASTIC FOUR #1** when it came out, and has been hooked ever since. He went professional in 1974, inking romance and horror stories for Charlton Comics. After spending a year working outside the field, Bob began his career for Marvel in 1976, and quickly became famous for a stint on **IRON MAN**, and, of course, **HERCULES**.

"In this, the second Limited Series, **Herc** is a little older and wiser, but he's still basically a big adolescent," Bob told **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**. "He's like the character J. D. on Hill Street Blues — he does bad things, but he really doesn't mean any harm. Sure, he's matured a *little* bit — after all, the guy is 4000 years old! Still, I've left plenty of room in the way I've written his character to have him gradually grow up. **Herc** is not of a terribly serious nature, as we know!"

That "not terribly serious nature" Bob described was surely evident in the first Limited Series. It took the form of some of the most outrageous comedy and wit this side of Monty

Hercules by Bob Layton.

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Python. According to your letters, Bob's hilarious sense of humor was one of the main reasons why you liked **Herc's** adventures so much — and the comedy is back with a vengeance! For instance, you'll meet a lovable Skrull named **Skyppi**. Claims Bob, "I just wanted to show that not *everyone* in the Skrull empire is evil. Skyppi the Skrull is really a nice fellow, although he's a bit . . . well . . . a bit on the senile side! The poor little guy just wants to be left alone, really. He feels safe around **Hercules**, and he tags along." Also, **the Recorder**, the haggard and harried humanoid computer who gets into all sorts of crazy scrapes, is back!

Alas, there's a serious side to the second **HERCULES Limited Series**, too. Every Marvel Limited Series chronicles a major event or change in the life of its star. When the gods of Olympus begin dying at a frightening rate and for an unknown reason, the normally jovial **Hercules** must face the grim crisis on Olympus alone. The challenge to find out who — or what — is responsible tests **Herc's** character. He does not go through the experience unchanged. At one point, he must confront **Zeus**, only to find that the all-father has gone mad. Why is all this happening? The search sends **Hercules** on a far reaching adventure through the cosmos, and casts new light on his true self. The other

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wise carousing and hedonistic **Hercules** begins to question his mortality, his future, and his godly worthiness for the first time.

If it sounds like we've pulled out all the stops on this one, it's because we have! The first **HERCULES Limited Series** was such a success, that we felt we owed it to you to make the second one even more imaginative, more compelling, and more fun! In other words, we're not just doing an encore performance — we're going to *top* ourselves! The artwork that series editor **Bob Budiansky** has provided **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** herewith reproduced, ought to convince you that this second **HERCULES Limited Series** is going to be even better than the first. Go out and grab it. Four issues, one per month, starting October 25th! We don't want to start without you! ●

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THE ORIGINS OF MARVEL PRESS

by **Carol Kalish**, as told to **Mark Lerer**

We're starting Marvel Press as a response to reader demand! Whenever I meet with fans, both casual readers and more serious collectors, at conventions and press conferences, I'm always asked this question: why can't we buy posters of our favorite Marvel characters? Of course, posters and portfolios featuring Marvel super heroes *are* published — but they've always been put out by fanzine publishers and small operations. And while most of these people have done a fine job with our characters, their products are not always available for sale in all parts of the country, and they frequently are too expensive for many Marvel readers to afford. After a while, it occurred to me that publishing portfolios, posters, and all sorts of merchandise featuring our characters was something that we could do ourselves! And we could do it even better!

About five months ago, I met with **Mike Hobson** (our Vice President in charge of Publishing), **Joe Calamari** (our Vice President in charge of business operations), **David Fox** (Marvel's legal counsel), and **Jim Shooter** (you all know who *he* is!), to discuss the possibility of putting out the kind of super hero items that we, as fans ourselves, would like. There was a whole list of items that we agreed we'd all love to see, that weren't being made by any of the companies who held our licenses. You know the kinds of stuff — **Hulk** T-shirts, **Spider-Man** Baseball jackets, buttons — not to mention Bamf dolls for **X-Men** fans! Of course, I made my pitch for the many fans I'd met over the years and suggested posters and portfolios.

An advance look at the **CLOAK AND DAGGER** poster by **Rick Leonardi** and **Terry Austin. Tom DeFalco** asked us not to color the artwork here in **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** because we couldn't begin to capture all the stunning beauty of **Glynis Wein**'s full-color work on this poster at this size and on regular comic book paper.

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The idea of Marvel publishing its own posters and portfolios struck everybody's fancy. By the time the meeting had ended, the five of us had initiated a two-pronged program. One "prong" would be to license our characters to certain manufacturers for the direct sales market, for the kinds of items we didn't have the resources to produce ourselves. This would be for physical merchandise, including everything from jackets to jewelry to dolls — the kind of stuff of which a fan's bedroom is made. This is a long-term program, already in the formative stages, and you'll be hearing about new Marvel merchandise in the months to come. The second "prong," naturally, was to go ahead producing the kinds of things we ourselves know how to make — publishable items, which simply means items on paper. After all, as a publisher of comic books, paperbacks, and magazines, this is something we already know how to do! Trading cards, posters, and portfolios . . . this is the stuff of Marvel Press!

Marvel Press, it was decided, would have to offer the maximum *variety* of characters to appear on posters and portfolios. Because Marvel is a large company, we have the means to produce something for every reader's taste. Rather than releasing one poster at a time, for example, we decided to release *four* at a time, spotlighting characters from all over the Marvel Universe, in a balanced selection. Specifically, the first release will feature on 22" x 34" high gloss paper in full color, **Spider-Man** (by **John Romita, Jr.** and **Al Milgrom**), **the X-Men** (by **Butch Guice**), **Alpha Flight** (by **John Byrne** of course!), and **Dr. Strange** (by **Kevin Nowlan**). The first portfolio, as you know, will be of **Alpha Flight** by **John Byrne**. The **Alpha Flight** portfolio will have eight plates, one of each team member, in full color, priced at only $9.95. There will be only one printing of the **Alpha Flight** portfolio, so it's bound to be a sought after collector's item.

I'm especially proud that we're able to release high quality merchandise at affordable prices. Marvel Press exists for the *reader* — the person who likes our comics and our characters, who would enjoy having a full-color Marvel Super Hero on his or her wall. We're aware that many Marvel fans just can't afford high-priced collectors' editions. Marvel Press is the answer, offering beautifully printed posters at $3.95 and portfolios at approximately $10.00. We are, after all, providing a service in compliance with the requests of our readers, so we've priced our merchandise with the reader in mind.

Another thing to remember about Marvel Press is that this is definitely *not* a one-shot deal! We'll release posters and portfolios regularly, on an ongoing publishing schedule. We're starting at three releases per year, and hope to go to four per year in the future. Marvel Press posters and portfolios will come to you as a regular seasonal event, which you can look forward to for the rest of your comics-buying days!

All in all, I'm really excited. This is the sort of thing that I've always wanted to see Marvel do. I'm gratified that as Direct Sales Manager for Marvel Comics, I've been able to help bring Marvel Press about! Right now, I'm waiting along with the rest of you for the first release, coming to all comics specialty outlets in October. ●

The **X-MEN** poster in living black and white! Seriously, you've got to see these posters in full dazzling color to get the full effect!

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STEVE ENGLEHART'S COYOTE™ CHANGES

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By Robert J. Sodaro

COYOTE, which is the second comic series from Epic Comics, had run into an unfortunate snag after its second issue. **Steve Leialoha**, the artist, dropped out of the project. He felt that, as much as he wanted to draw the book, he just could not commit the time to it that COYOTE deserved. So rather than turn in rushed work, he bowed out.

This left writer/creator **Steve Englehart** and Epic having to quickly find another artist. After some searching, **Butch Guice** agreed to step in to draw issue #3. However, Butch's regular work on **THE MICROANUTS** didn't leave him enough time to pencil **COYOTE** on a regular basis. Still, by his lending a hand on issue #3, he allowed Steve the time to find a permanent replacement.

That replacement turned out to be **Charles Truog**. If Charles' name does not ring a bell for you it is probably because **COYOTE** will only be his second published work. The only other appearance of his art was in **CHARLTON BULLSEYE #5**.

"Warhund." Since contributors to **BULLSEYE** were not paid, but given free copies of the comic, **COYOTE** will, in actuality, be Charles' first professional work to date.

For Charles, being asked to pencil **COYOTE** is very much a fairy tale come true. Eight months ago he was a comic book fan, eagerly awaiting the latest issues of **CONAN** and **DR. STRANGE**. Now he is handling the art chores on one of Marvel's premier Epic line of comics. One could understand how all of this is quite a rush for him.

The sequence of events that catapulted Charles into the limelight reads very much like the plot of an old Hollywood "B" movie. You know the one, the small town guy who travels to the big city and finds fame and fortune. Well that is almost the way it happened for Charles, only he did not even have to leave his home state of Minnesota. Charles had met **Mike Baron** of Capital Comics at a convention in Minneapolis in March of this year.

Mike was so impressed with Charles's work that about a month later, when speaking to Steve Englehart, who mentioned he was looking for an artist, he recommended Charles. Mike contacted Charles and told him to send samples of his art to Steve. "I sent some of my stuff, and didn't expect to hear anything about it really," Charles related. Then he received a phone call from California. "Steve said, 'Do you want a job?' and I said, 'Sure!'" The rest is fast becoming history.

Charles says that he is very much in awe of working with the many talented people who participate on **COYOTE**. "It's very odd for me. Just coming into the industry like this, and suddenly working with people like Steve Englehart, **Bob Wiacek**, **Tom Orzechowski**, and **Steve Oliff**." He further commented that it was very strange to be working with someone he had never even met. To Charles, Steve and the people at Marvel, "are just voices on the phone."

Far from being a novice, Charles is bringing with him his knowledge of studio art, in which he has a BA. He is also very much into sculpture and design. In spite of the fact that his teachers told him not to enter comics, Charles felt he wanted to take the plunge. He did so because, in his own words, "Comics is the only place that artists work with the figure." He feels that, as an artist, he has to go back to the source, so he studies the works of **Michaelangelo** and the other Renaissance masters.

Steve, on the other hand, tends to

Art © 1983 by Charles Truog.

be very philosophical about the entire affair. While he was very sorry to see Steve Leialoha leave the book, he's thrilled that he found an artist as talented as Charles. When asked how Charles' style would mesh with what has gone before, Steve responded by saying, "I think that people who discovered **COYOTE** for the first time with Leialoha doing the art, which is most people, won't have any trouble with Charles' version."

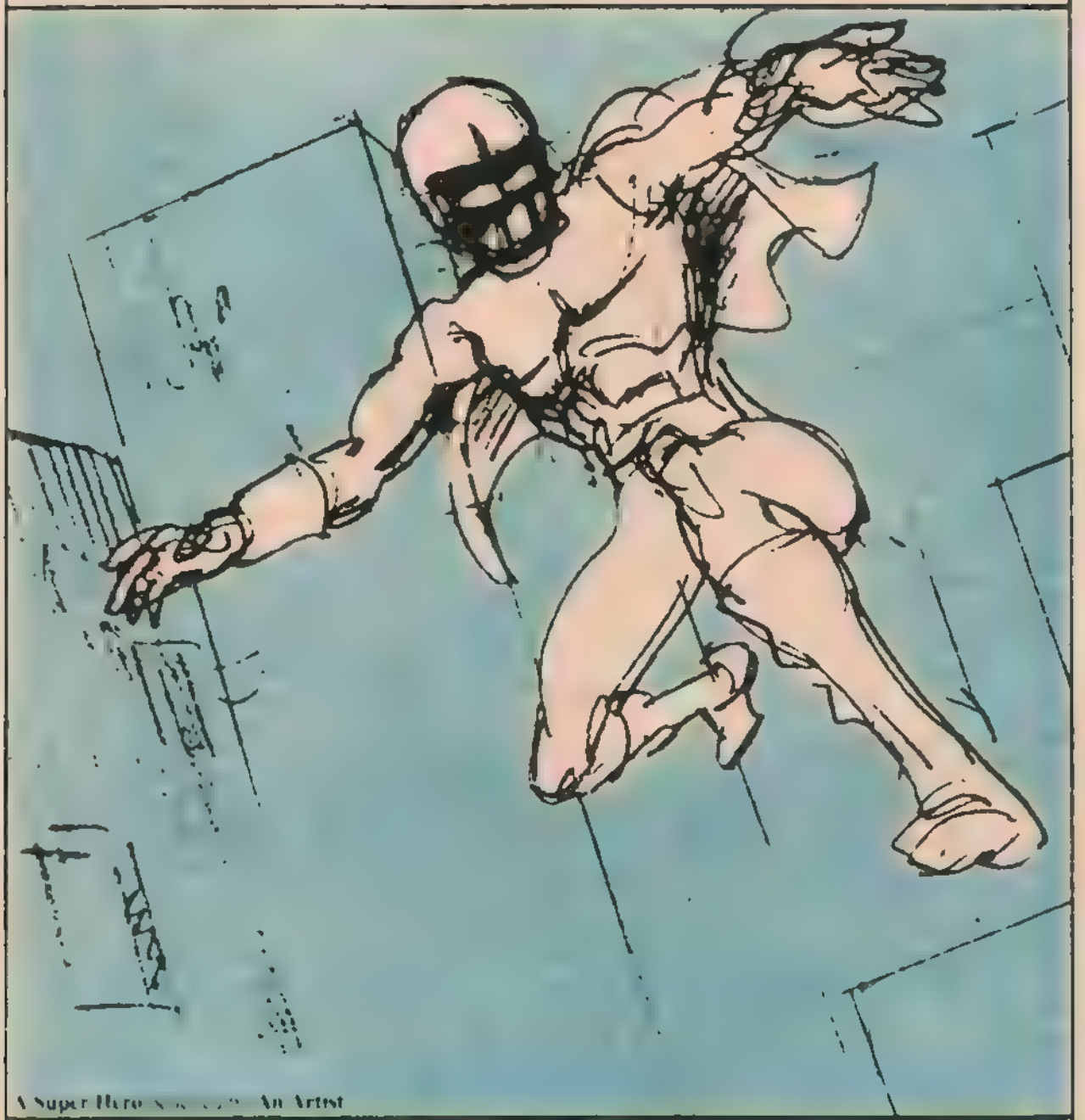
As far as the delay in **COYOTE** itself was concerned, Steve hoped that the fans would understand, that the circumstances behind the delay were outside of anyone's control.

"The nice thing about **COYOTE**," Steve says. "And this is somewhat by accident, and somewhat by design, is that it is very organic." He went on to say that since the storyline was very strong, that he hoped that it would sustain the book during its short hiatus. Judging from the positive reaction the book has already received, Steve is probably right.

The organic nature of **COYOTE** owes a great deal to Steve's approach to plotting. Steve sees himself as a juggler. "I like to throw several balls in the air, as it were, then wait two months and catch them when they come down. Then I'll figure out exactly how I'm going to juggle them at that point." Thus the book always remains fresh for Steve. Still, he remains very much in control of **COYOTE**'s direction. "The trick is being able to catch all the balls when they come down, and make it look as if you had it all planned," Steve concludes.

With **The Shadow Cabinet**, **Cassie**, and **Natalia**, stale is the one thing that **COYOTE** isn't. Now that Charles Truog has signed on as the regular penciler, and with the book moving back on schedule, there is a serious amount of action in **COYOTE**'s future. There's no stopping the **COYOTE**'s creative crew now! ●

THE GENERIC COMIC



A Super Hero [illegible] An Artist

© 1983 [illegible]

Everyone knows those generic products in the supermarket. You know the ones: products packaged without a brand name, like the white bottle with black lettering that says "Dish washing Liquid" or the box that simply says "Facial Tissues." The idea behind generic products was that consumers didn't have to pay a high price for famous brand names per se, artificial coloring and so on. It's easy to read the list of ingredients on the labels and know you're getting a no-frills product.

Well - they said it couldn't be done - but Marvel is doing it! We're putting out a no-frills generic comic book! In order to give you the most economically safe environmentally sound comic book possible, we've eliminated all the fancy brand name ingredients! **A COMIC BOOK** will go on sale at all Direct Sales outlets this January.

We have to *eliminate* any of the ingredients that make a Marvel Comic so great - explained **An Editor** in **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**. "We've just gotten rid of the fancy labels. The book stars **A Super Hero**. Although he receives exactly 2.05 super powers in An Origin he's a real person with problems just like you and me. He lives in the New York area. His romantic interest **A Girlfriend** is very beautiful and charming. They each have a Complex Personality like all Marvel characters.

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Wait till you see **The Dialogue** for this scene in the in the finished **GENERIC COMIC!**

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"The Generic Comic is a wild experiment, and a response to people who want to see us do something new and different," an Editor continued. "But it's really not a joke! We're playing it straight. The Generic Comic will really contain An Adventure, which pits **A Super Hero** against **A Super-Villain**. **A Super-Villain**, of course, has a Super-Power or two of his own. What does **A Super-Villain** want? How can **A Super Hero** stop him? I guarantee you that the story will have A Shocking Surprise, An Unexpected Plot-Twist, and An Exciting Battle!"

The book is being done by **A Writer** and **An Artist**. A Writer has written many comics for Marvel over the years. You're certain to enjoy his style, which includes Narrative, Dialogue, Plot, and Characterization. An Artist makes his Marvel debut with the Generic Comic. He brings A Fresh Approach to penciling **A Super Hero**, employing Panels, Figures, Backgrounds, Perspective, Storytelling, and, of course, Action! Of course, the inking chores will be handled by An Inker, who will compliment An Artist's pencils beautifully with Line, Shading, and Texture.

What more can we say, except — it's for real! The Generic Comic is actually coming to your local Comics Specialty Shop the first week of January. Because it's a no-frills product, the price is only 60¢! Look for the white cover which says "A Comic Book" in black lettering over the UPC symbol. See you then! ●

THE NEW DEFENDERS™

by Mark Lerer

Welcome **Peter B. Gillis** to THE NEW DEFENDERS! No, no no—Peter isn't joining as the team's newest *member*—he's coming aboard to *write* the adventures of this most unconventional aggregate of superbeings! A candidate for Ph.D in Comp Lit at the University of Chicago, Gillis has already written two recent **IRON MAN ANNUALs**, this year's **CAPTAIN AMERICA ANNUAL** and several highly imaginative **WHAT IF** stories. He begins writing **THE NEW DEFENDERS**, his first regular series for Marvel, with issue #112, a story of unparalleled drama and action called "The Phantom of Gamma Ray Flat." Watch for it!

Unlike any other super-team in comics, **the New Defenders** reside in the heart of the Colorado Rockies. "It will be a lot of fun, as well as a challenge," Gillis told **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**. "to write the adventures of a group set in the middle of the American Continent. Their headquarters, owned by their millionaire member **the Angel**, is located in a little town called Creede, Colorado population 200. The town really exists. Gillis assures. It's a beautiful part of the country and will make a perfect, off-beat visual setting for an action strip." Because of their remote location, unlike super heroes who live in New York City, **the New Defenders** won't spend a lot of time going out and looking for menaces to battle. Unconventional enough, **the New Defenders** will be having villains coming to *them*!

In this sense, the group's operating method will reflect its name "**Defenders.**" Villains will seek them out to attack them for specific purposes. Nor will they always be old villains seeking revenge— "I was never a fan of 'grudge' stories," claimed Gillis. "But I won't answer the question of just what it is that they're defending. *That* would open the lid on a whole package of surprises that we will reveal as the series progresses."

Why do **the Defenders** stay a group? They are not bound together by family ties, by obligations to any government, nor by a specific [illegible] as are **the Fantastic Four**, **the Avengers**, **the X-Men**. The central force behind the group, again, involves many surprises which Gillis's first stories will uncover. **The New Defenders'** *raison d'etre* lies in how its members relate to one another as heroes, as super-human beings, and as friends. Gillis sees **the New Defenders** as a group of exceptional beings thrown together partly by circumstance and partly by design. The members of the group, especially those who are former members of **the X-Men**, are old and close colleagues, who have shared phenomenal experiences which have bound them irrevocably to one another and to their life's work. None of **the New Defenders**, in other words, are "adventurers" in the traditional sense.

Take **the Beast**, for example. "**The Beast** is the main reason why I jumped when **Carl Potts** offered me **THE NEW DEFENDERS** writing assignment," Gillis grinned. "He's great! He's funny. He's a genuine intellectual. A high spirited, keenly intelligent man with a sharp wit, **the Beast** makes you laugh *and* makes you think. He's finished indulging in a lot of the 'dopey' stuff he's been known for in the past. As he matures, his sense of humor, his interests, and his preoccupations will reflect the personality of a well-read and gracious man. He enjoys the cultural life tremendously. In fact, one of his frustrations is that none of his friends want to go to the opera with him." Gillis mentioned, though, that on one occasion, **Beast** *will* get **Valkyrie** to go to the opera, just to see her namesake portrayed on the stage!

Valkyrie will develop into a more powerful being than she has been in the past, as she re-discovers her true reason for being. "According to the Asgardian canon," Gillis explained, "**the Valkyrie** is the chooser of the slain, who decides which fallen warriors may enter into Valhalla. This gives her the knowledge of life and death on Earth. Although she's very beautiful, I think this makes her a tremendously *scary* character, in light of the immense power that she wields.

"Speaking of immense power," Gillis continued, "**The Gargoyle** has become one of my favorites. I always loved the idea that a little old man in his eighties could be a super hero! It's so different—so typically Marvel! He's not some confused teenager or some square-jawed crimefighter! He's monstrous in appearance, warm and gentle in nature, and unbelievably powerful!" Now that **Doctor Strange** and **the Hulk** have left the group, **The Gargoyle** is the most invulnerably mighty of **the Defenders**. Not a likely situation for an elderly gentleman to find himself in! How does he handle the responsibility? In quite an interesting manner!

Surprisingly, **the Angel**, one of the more "normal" looking characters, seems the hardest to figure out. Why does a successful and happy millionaire like **Warren Worthington III** repeatedly risk his life super heroing? Is he simply a bored playboy, who chances death out of a need for thrills? "I think not," Gillis offered, "He already has all of the spiritual, as well as material, comforts a man could want. He not only has money and power, but a woman who loves him, close friends, fame and recognition. Unlike the other mutants in the Marvel Universe, **the Angel** has truly achieved success, and escaped the 'mutie' trap. Prejudice against his kind can no longer hurt

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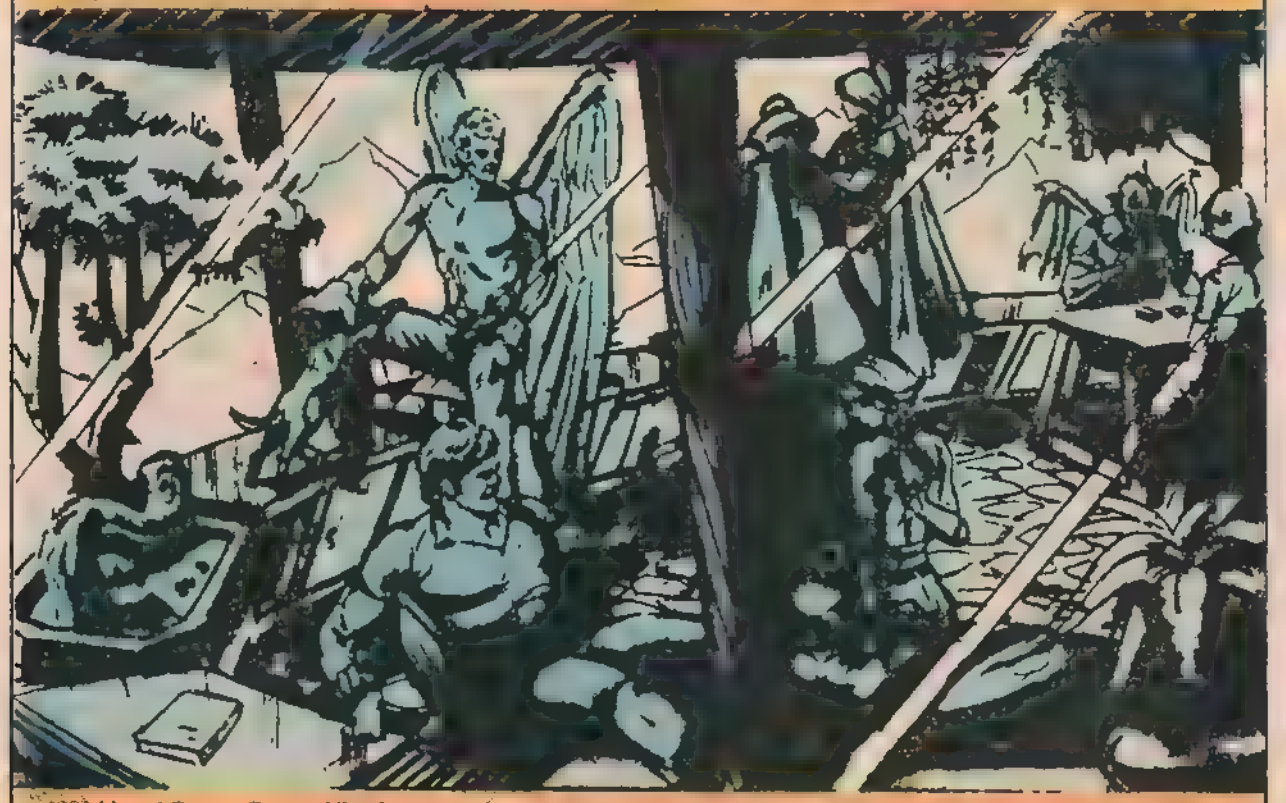
A look at **The Defenders'** new digs



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him personally." So why is the **Angel** a **Defender**? "Of course, he has a very long relationship with **the Beast** and **the Iceman**, which goes back to when all three were **X-Men**. But it's more than that. I don't know—**Angel** may decide to retire from full-time fighting to take a more passive role in managing **the New Defenders'** affairs. We'll see. In an upcoming story, he'll go through a real trial by fire against a menace too terrible to even name. Will this make him decide, once and for all, what to do with his life and career? He's an enigma. He'll do the least expected thing. That's all I'll tell you."

Iceman's into music? That's right, **Bobby Drake, the Iceman** is a super powered champion who stays well-versed in contemporary music. He even plays keyboards and synthesizer. Gillis explained, "**J.M. DeMatteis** deserves the credit for discovering this side of **Bobby's** personality. J.M. and I disagree, though, about what kind of music **Iceman** would be into. **J.M.** sees him more into Springsteen, but I have a feeling that **Bobby** would like Brian Eno. Like any rock and roll devotee, his tastes will change and evolve. *I* don't even know what he'll be into next!"

Cloud has been a mysterious supporting member of **the Defenders** cast, and Gillis plans to reveal her character in a sub-plot that takes some real risks. "My plans for Cloud are unusual, perhaps bizarre. They involve things that have *never* been done in comics before. Sure, it's daring—even for Marvel—and Carl Potts was at first hesitant to let me develop her character the way I wanted to. It's going to rattle a few people. But of course we're going ahead with it.

"I'll give you a hint about **Cloud**. The surprise involves her relationship to **Moondragon**. By the way, the true nature of **Moondragon** is *also* going to come out—and it, *too* is going to shock a few people. But it's the thing that would naturally happen."

Throughout our conversation, Gillis kept mentioning the evolving personalities of **the New Defenders**. Staying aware of the ways his characters naturally change, mature, and develop is Gillis's first committment as a writer. "I'm going to elevate the stature of **the Defenders**. By all rights, **the New Defenders** should be as important a super-group as **the Fantastic Four** or **the Avengers**. **The New Defenders** are not average people. They are remarkable! Each one of them is an extraordinary, accomplished person of unmistakable power. **Angel**, **Beast**, **Iceman**, **Gargoyle**, and **Valkyrie** are all worthy of awe and fear.

"But I cannot elevate their status as characters through contrivance. Rather I'll let their natural strengths come through. Many interesting revelations about their pasts will occur. In addition, they will all undergo some shocking and tumultuous experiences in the months to come which will further mature them.

"Throw away all you old ideas about **the Defenders**!" Peter B. Gillis concluded. "These are **the New Defenders**! They are an impressive group of people—and their upcoming adventures should not be missed for anything!" ●

TARZAN® OF THE APES

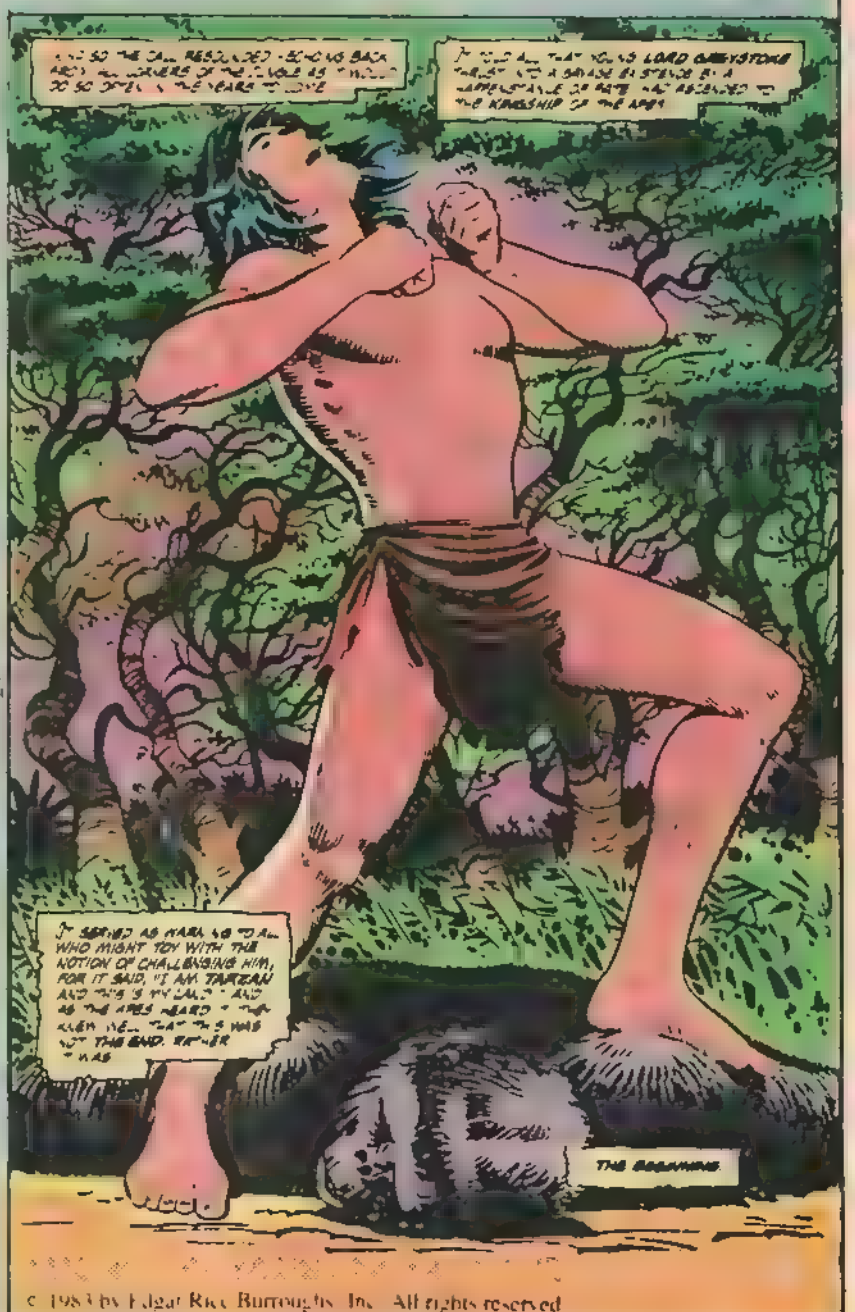
Edgar Rice Burroughs

A SUPER SPECIAL SAGA

by D. Jon Zimmerman

Sixty-nine years ago a failed businessman wrote the immortal American classic about an orphaned English peer raised by the great apes in a isolated section of equatorial west Africa. TARZAN OF THE APES by **Edgar Rice Burroughs** was an instant best-seller, and propelled its author to enduring prominence as one of America's greatest fantasy and adventure writers.

Born in 1875, Burroughs led a drifter's life, working at a number of different jobs and even panned for gold at one point, but never became anything more than a moderate success. One day in his late thirties, he became disgusted with the low quality of stories written in the pulps, fiction magazines so called because of the pulp paper on which they were printed. Believing he could do better, Burroughs wrote UNDER THE MOONS OF MARS, the story of **John Carter**, a Civil War hero who becomes a champion on the planet Mars. Afraid that someone who read the tale might think that the author was crazy, Burroughs used the pseudonym *Normal* Bean. After the manuscript had been accepted for publication by the Frank A. Munsey Company, a typesetter thinking that the name had been misspelled, "corrected" the error, making the name *Norman* Bean. That was the by-line that appeared when the story was published in **ALL-STORY WEEKLY** in 1912. The successful reception of his first novel, and annoyance at seeing his pen-name changed caused ERB to use his real name thereafter on the over fifty novels he wrote that took his enthralled readers



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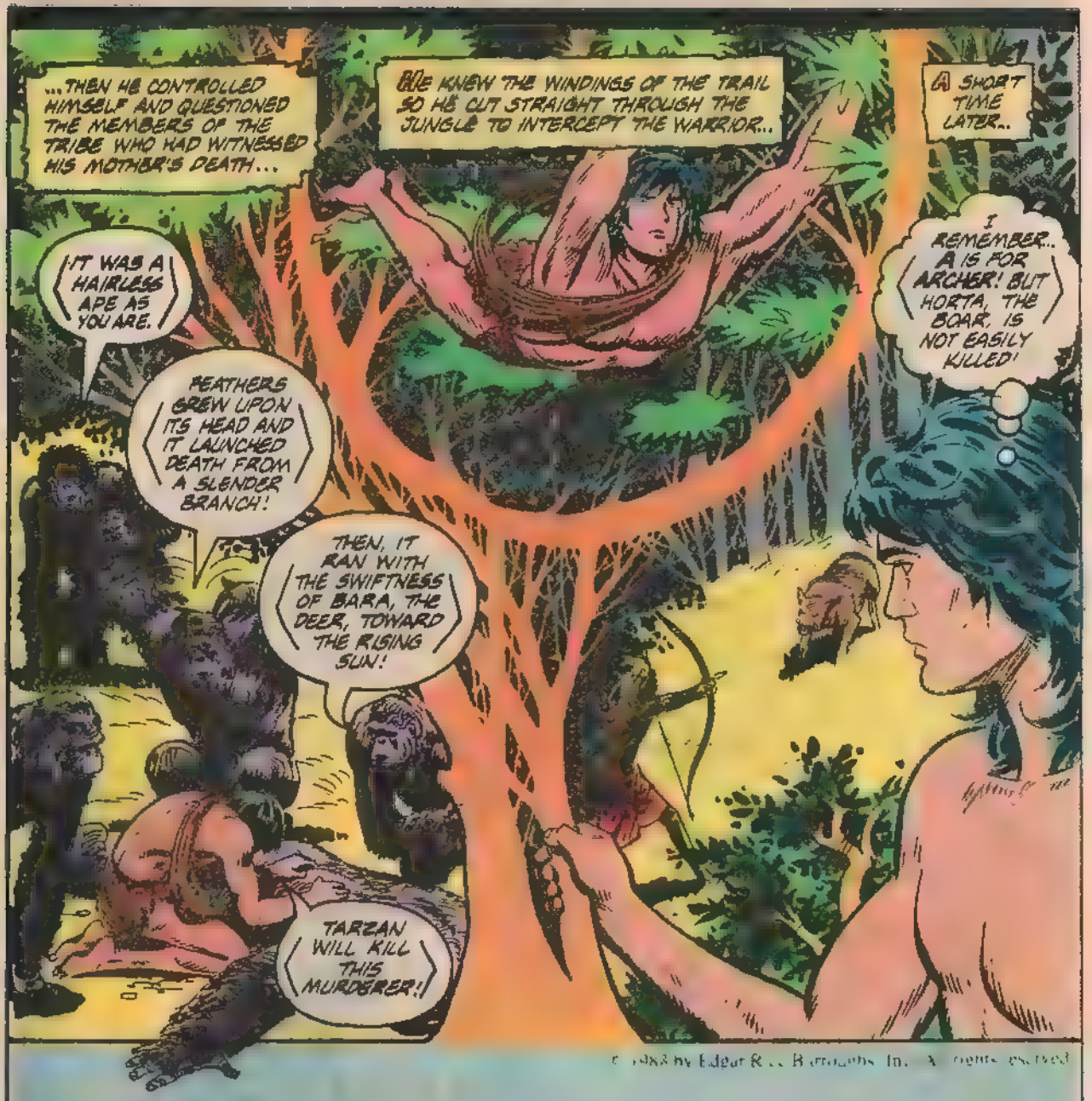
...THEN HE CONTROLLED HIMSELF AND QUESTIONED THE MEMBERS OF THE TRIBE WHO HAD WITNESSED HIS MOTHER'S DEATH...
HE KNEW THE WINDINGS OF THE TRAIL SO HE CUT STRAIGHT THROUGH THE JUNGLE TO INTERCEPT THE WARRIOR..
A SHORT TIME LATER..
IT WAS A HAIRLESS APE AS YOU ARE.
FEATHERS GREW UPON ITS HEAD AND IT LAUNCHED DEATH FROM A SLENDER BRANCH!
THEN, IT RAN WITH THE SWIFTNESS OF BARA, THE DEER, TOWARD THE RISING SUN!
TARZAN WILL KILL THIS MURDERER!
I REMEMBER.. A IS FOR ARCHER! BUT HORTA, THE BOAR, IS NOT EASILY KILLED!

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from the Earth's core to beyond the farthest star.

Burroughs created a legion of memorable heroes before he died in 1950. None was more popular than **Tarzan**. Few fictional heroes have become as widely imitated, featured in as many different formats, translated into as many different languages or received as much critical and academic examination. In addition to over twenty full-length novels and two collections of short stories by Burroughs himself, as well as a score of tales written by other authors, **Tarzan** has appeared in syndicated comic-strips, comic books, children's books, animated cartoons, TV and the movies. There is even a city in California, Tarzana, named after the jungle lord.

Tarzan's greatest fame and grossest misconception have come from the movies. Movie moguls adapted freely from Burroughs' original concept and almost overnight created an enduring false image, an almost neanderthalic caricature of ERB's highly intelligent ape-man. The **Tarzan** of the novels could, for example, speak fluent English, French and several native languages. The **Tarzan** of the movies often seemed to have barely enough sense to come in out of the rain. One recent **Tarzan** movie actually placed the ape-man in a featured role less important than that of the woman he loves, *Jane*.

Burroughs, himself, complained loudly and repeatedly over the mistreatment of his creation. He was, unfortunately, helpless before the whims of Hollywood.

But now, in a long overdue homage to the master, there comes a movie that will adhere to the original. The movie is called **Greystoke**. At the same time Marvel has the honor of presenting the comic book adaptation

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of the novel, **Tarzan of the Apes**, in its standard-setting SUPER SPECIAL format.

This is not the first time that Marvel has published **TARZAN**. In the mid-1970's, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc., the company that controls the rights to all of ERB's creations, selected Marvel to do the comic book versions of **Tarzan** and **John Carter**.

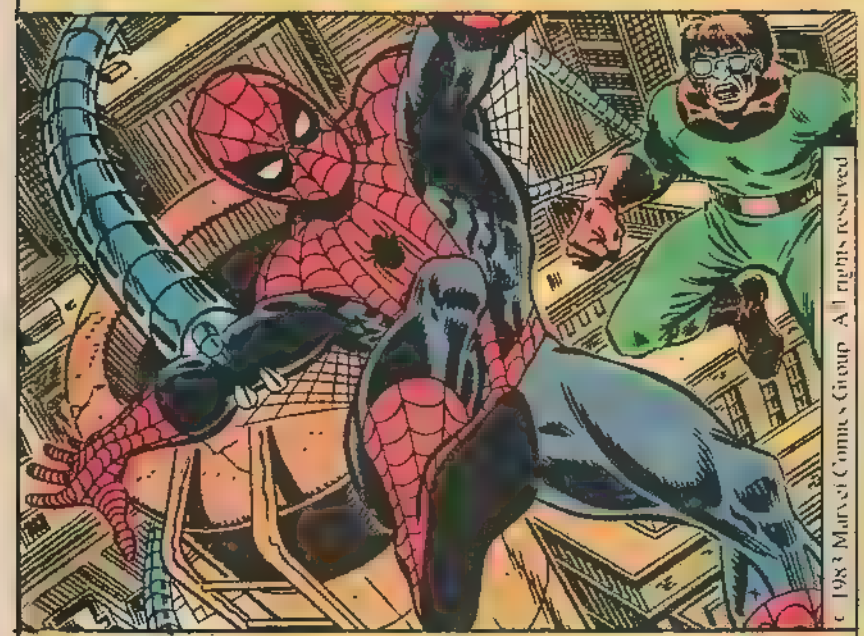
Mark Evanier, the co-writer on the project, is no johnny-come-lately. In fact, this multi-faceted writer of comic books, TV scripts and movie screenplays is a former employee of ERB, Inc., itself! Mark is no stranger to Marvel, either, and sharp-eyed readers will remember his scripting on an issue of **MARVEL PREMIERE** starring **the Falcon**.

Dan Spiegel, the artist, is one of the most respected comic-strip artists in the business who has also done work for many comic book companies during his prolific career.

Both the the cinema version, and Marvel's **SUPER SPECIAL** of **TARZAN OF THE APES** cover the events of the novel from the beginning to when **Tarzan** kills **Kerchak** and becomes king of the mangani (great apes).

One of the most exciting aspects of this 48-page **SUPER SPECIAL** magazine is how faithfully the creative team adhered to ERB's masterpiece. All of the richness of character, conflict and plot that made Burroughs' novels such a success are stunningly recreated. For instance, ERB's long narrative passages which did such an exceptional job to set the mood were effectively melded with the art or subtly reworked into gripping dialog that ropes in even the most jaded of **Tarzan** fans. As might be expected, certain scenes, such as those aboard the ill-fated ship, *Fuwalda*, were shortened. Such editing was handled with the greatest of sensitivity and respect. Everyone involved with the project professed the desire to do the best they could to bring to a new generation of readers the thrilling origin of **Tarzan Of The Apes**. And, before anyone knows it, **MARVEL SUPER SPECIAL** #29 will be on the stands in early 1984, followed immediately thereafter in a regular-sized 2-part **Limited Series** comic book. Don't miss out—reserve your copy today! ●

WHAT IS the OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS TRY-OUT BOOK



by **Mark Lerer**

This Christmas — make it **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS TRY-OUT BOOK!** It's more than a comic book — it's a deluxe giant-sized edition that lets *you* become a writer, artist, letterer, or colorist for Marvel!

Maybe you're one of the talented many who writes and draws your own comics. Or perhaps you've always wanted to submit your samples to Marvel, but never had the time to do it up right. Or maybe you've always wanted to try your hand at being a comics artist or writer, but never found that perfect vehicle to showcase your talents. Well, with **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS TRY-OUT BOOK**, *we've* done the hard part for you!

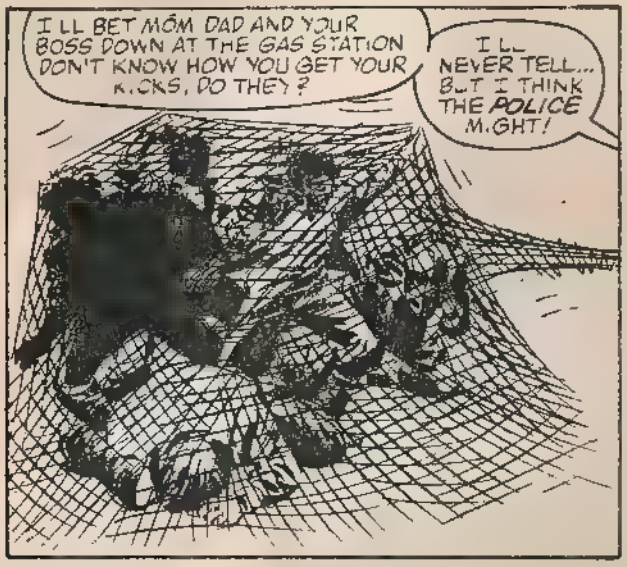
Here's what it's all about. **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS TRY-OUT BOOK** is an all-new **Spider-Man** adventure, printed on 11" x 17" two-ply Bristol Board, the very same stock that professionals use when they create comics! After the story gets underway, you'll find a four-page section for *you* to *color*! Got the idea? Later on, there is a five-page section reproduced from the pencil art, for *you* to *ink*! There'll be a page reproducing the story's script so that you can *letter* a page! Further along, there will be sections where you can *pencil*, *script*, or actually *plot* the story! And because we spared no effort to make this the perfect product, *full instructions* precede each section, courtesy of **Jim Shooter**.

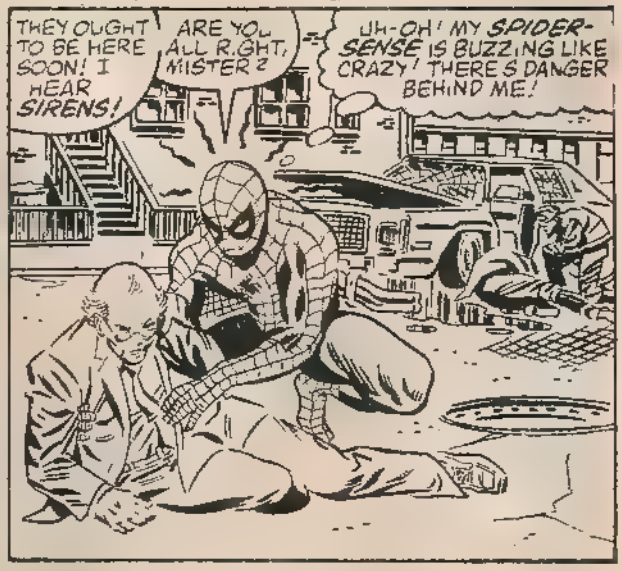
That's not all! On the back cover, you'll find a special message from Jim explaining how to submit your work to Marvel! That's right — after you participate in crafting **Spider-Man's** peril-fraught battle with **Doctor Octopus** (Whoops! In our enthusiasm, we gave away the villain!), you can send your work *in*, for Big Jim and the gang to evaluate! If you guessed that **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS TRY-OUT BOOK** is a part of our continuing search for new talent, you were right! And of course, if you want to show off all of your skills at once — say, by coloring as well as inking the "inking" section, feel free! This is *your* chance to shine!

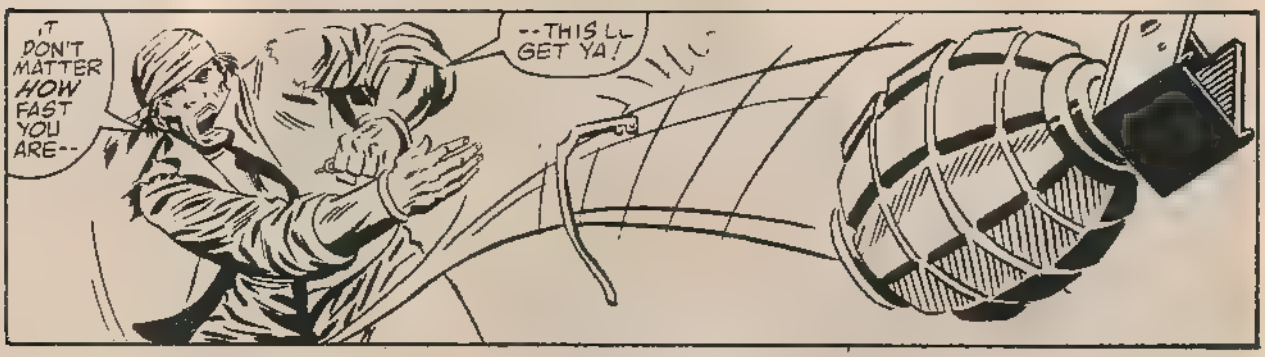
Won't you see this glorious full-color package. The **Spidey** story itself is written by **Jim Shooter**, penciled by **John Romita, Jr.**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**! In fact, you'll probably want to buy at least *two* copies — one to work on, and one to keep for your collection.

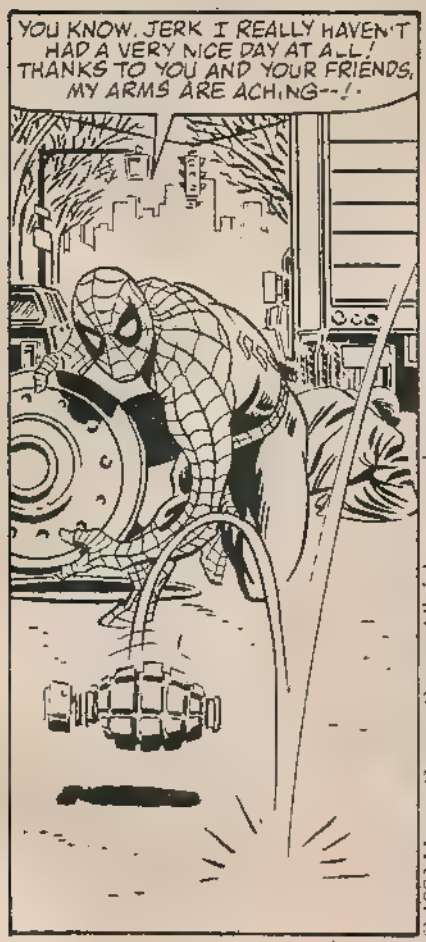
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS TRY-OUT BOOK goes on sale November 29 at all Direct Sales Comics Specialty shops. It costs $12.95, and makes the perfect holiday gift for the budding comic book creator, *or* collector! In fact, because it's got a giant-sized all new **Spider-Man** tale, you should pick up a copy even if you're just a casual reader!

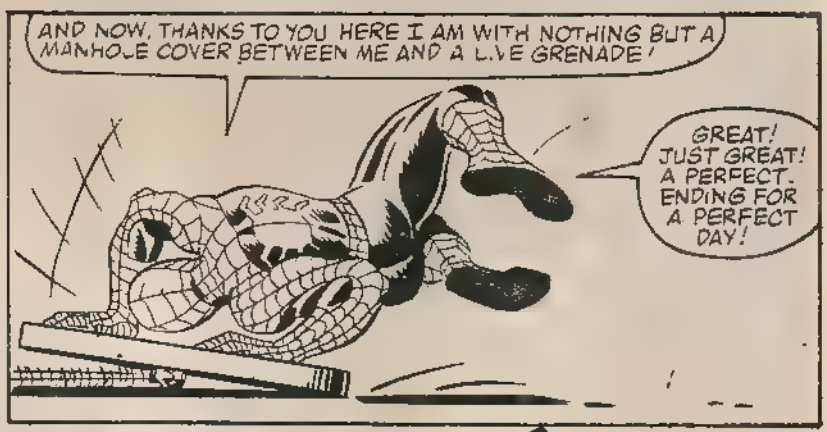
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS TRY-OUT BOOK! This season at all Comics Specialty Shops! Grab it quick — it's sure to sell out fast!


I'LL BET MOM DAD AND YOUR BOSS DOWN AT THE GAS STATION DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GET YOUR KICKS, DO THEY?
I'LL NEVER TELL... BUT I THINK THE POLICE MIGHT!


THEY OUGHT TO BE HERE SOON! I HEAR SIRENS!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MISTER?
UH-OH! MY SPIDER-SENSE IS BUZZING LIKE CRAZY! THERE'S DANGER BEHIND ME!






AND NOW, THANKS TO YOU HERE I AM WITH NOTHING BUT A MANHOLE COVER BETWEEN ME AND A LIVE GRENADE!
GREAT! JUST GREAT! A PERFECT ENDING FOR A PERFECT DAY!

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CONAN THE KING

NUMBER TWENTY-ONE

ON SALE NEXT MONTH!

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Marvel Gauge

Send your letters to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE % Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016

Dear Marvel Creators,

I am a serious comic book collector and I have seen the Marvel Pin-Ups that appear in your comics. I don't exactly relish the idea of cutting up mint copies just to hang them on my wall. Can't you sell super hero posters?

Tamara Lynn
4519 MacEachen Blvd
Sarasota, FL 33583

We sure can! And that's exactly what Marvel Press is all about! See the article in this issue for information about when and where to get posters of your favorite super heroes.

Dear **Jim** and **Mark**,

I wonder if you can explain something to me. Reading the **MARVEL AGE** article about the upcoming **CLOAK AND DAGGER Limited Series**, I came across the fact that "**Cloak** and **Dagger** have gone from being villains to heroes." Why are **Cloak** and **Dagger** now considered heroes, while a character like the **Punisher** is considered a villain?

Don Brickey
118 Locksley Place
Forest, VA 24551

This is an interesting point. Both *Cloak & Dagger* and *the Punisher* are "vigilantes" according to THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE, which means that they have taken the law into their own hands for their own purposes. Many people feel that this alone would make someone a "villain." *The Punisher* has a criminal record. Strictly speaking, this would make him a "villain" in the eyes of the law. The criminal histories of *Cloak* and *Dagger* are as yet unknown, but will be revealed in *CLOAK AND DAGGER* #4, the concluding chapter of their Limited Series. Read it! It'll answer many questions.

In the Marvel Universe, the categories of "hero" and "villain" are not always clear-cut. If you find that you believe in *the Punisher's* philosophies and agree with his motivations, perhaps you would consider him a hero! Remember — in *J. Jonah Jameson's* judgement, *Spider-Man* is a villain! *Sub-Mariner* and *the Hulk* have been considered both heroes and villains in their respective careers. Marvel innovated this approach to characterization before any other comics company.

Our stories are about complex people, each with good and bad qualities, and often "hero" or "villain" is a matter of your own personal judgement!

Dear **MARVEL AGE**,

Who drew the Sentry in **MARVEL UNIVERSE** #9? The credit was left off the contents page.

Dale Martin
6331 Scottsville Drive
Wichita, KS 67219

***John Byrne* drew it and *Joe Rubenstein* inked it! By the way, Dale, even though we didn't have enough room to print your entire letter, thanks for your comments and suggestions about everything from the *KREE-SKRULL WAR SPECIAL EDITION* to *Rod Whigham's* art.**

Dear Marvel,

Why *not* start a horror or mystery comic? Marvel has more than enough super hero comics out already, and there are still horror and mystery fans out here who are tired of buying costly reprints and trying to locate older issues. Now that the Direct Sales market is a big thing, the comics code is no longer holding you back. Further, a horror comic sold through specialty shops would be more likely to reach true fans. In any case, I believe that variety is a key to success, and Marvel should publish occasional non-super hero comics.

Kamran Rafieyan
105 Mohegan Dr.
West Hartford, CT 06117

Hmmmmmm. Y'know, horror comics always seemed to appeal to a very enthusiastic, die-hard cult of fans. How does the idea of a horror-soaked Limited Series strike you? Would you like to see more horror-oriented stories in our regular titles — like some of the current *DR. STRANGE* tales? Maybe a ghastly terror-filled shrieker in a book like *MARVEL FANFARE*? You've got our address — write!

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Dear **Jim**,

According to the article in **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #7, this year's **CONAN ANNUAL** #8 does *not* conclude last year's (that is, **ANNUAL** #7) two-part story of **Conan's** "final adventure" in the lost world. What happened? Did I spend my buck last year for an unfinished tale? A no-prize would definitely ease my pain until we see the tale's conclusion.

Bob Pinaha
512 Benner Street, Apt. 1-C
Highland Park, NJ 08904

Here's the answer. *CONAN ANNUAL* #7 indeed presented the first part of a two-part adaptation of the last *Conan* adventure to be chronicled in the paperback series. Since then, Marvel has re-vamped and streamlined the editorial direction of the *Conan* titles. Currently, *CONAN THE KING* (formerly titled *KING CONAN*) portrays what happened *before* that "final" story, to fill you in on the Cimmerian's full biography. When *CONAN THE KING* "catches up," the whole novel will be re-adapted in its entirety. Got it straight? Good! Now explain it to us!

Hey **Stan** and the Marvel Comics Group!

I've got this very important question to ask and I'd really appreciate an answer.

Do you remember a magazine called **"Pizzazz?"** I'd like to know if it's still being published, or if it's defunct.

Karen McDaniels
396 Morton Ave.
West Berlin, NJ 08091

Bad news, Karen. *Pizzazz* is no longer being published.

Dear **MARVEL AGE**,

I would like to know why **Conan the Barbarian** has not been listed in the **OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE**! I mean, he's one of my favorite characters! Please explain to this confused reader how this barbarian could have been overlooked! Crom!

Dave Meeker
245-B North Thompson Drive
Madison, WI 53714

For numerous complex and dull legal reasons various characters published by Marvel could not appear in *THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE*. Many characters such as *Conan*, *Red Sonja*, *Indiana Jones*, the *Star Wars* crew, and others are really *not* part of the Marvel universe. That is, the fictional reality that *Spider-Man* and *the FF* exist in is different than the one inhabited by *Conan* and company. Ok? Ok!

Dear Men of Earth,

Being Lord and Master of all I survey can get to be dull at times. **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** provides me with an escape. I enjoy the news and the coming attractions immensely.

I am prepared to make you a deal of sorts. Continue to publish this magazine, and I shall not devour your planet. I have spoken.

Galactus
Lunar Stronghold
6102 138th St. S. E.
Everett, WA 98204

You got a deal, boss! By the way, doesn't it get *hot* under that crazy get-up you wear all the time?

Dear **Mr. S.**,

My son and I enjoy **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**. The younger kids need a book of this sort. Thanks to all.

Terry Cannon
3817 Mallard Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73115

You can't fool us, Terry! *You* enjoy it as much as your little boy does, don'tcha! We just love it when the *parents* get hooked on the ol' Marvel magic . . . !

Dear Folks,

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE excels in informing us fans of what's happening at Marvel. What you may not realize is that there is enormous potential in your letter column. Unlike any other Marvel lettercol, this one makes the effort to answer questions or just to make a comment on almost every single letter, instead of just saying "thanks a lot" or some other one-liner. This kind of attention which you give us only proves that there exists at **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** a true responsibility to the Marvel reader.

H. C.
Cherry Hill, NJ

Hey, somebody noticed!

Dear **Jim** and all concerned,

I noticed in the coming attractions section that during assistant editor's month, the Marvel Bullpen itself will appear side-by-side with comic characters! I remember when, in **FANTASTIC FOUR** #176, **the Impossible Man** ran amok through the Marvel offices. I laughed for weeks! When was the first time you did something like that?

Anthony Padilla
3701 Oakgreen Ave.
Stillwater, MN 55082

Let's see now . . . back in 1963, *Stan Lee* and *Jack Kirby* appeared in FANTASTIC FOUR #10. As far as we can tell that was the first time bullpenners appeared in a book.

Dear People,

I love your magazine! Especially the coming attracations. I love comics, but have a limited amount of money to spend on them, so I get only specific ones each month. If a favorite character makes an appearance in another book and not on the cover, I can make a point of picking up a book that I normally don't.

I also love the unexpected sketches at the top of the letters page. I never know *what* to expect! One month it's quite sensible, like **Benton Jew's** "Marvel Mail Bagg-Age," and the next month it's not so sensible, like "**Mark Duncan's** Page!" I love it! Keep it up for as long as possible! Thanks for a great book, and tell the whole Bullpen to keep up the great work that they do to entertain me and many others.

Bonnie Forman
Syracuse, NY

Well, thankyouthankyouthankyou!

And we hope you dug this month's "Marvel Gauge," submitted by *Larry Kraus* from Northbrook, Illinois! We thought it captured the spirit of this whole enterprise really well.

And so, until next month, stay well, stay crazy, stay wonderful — and whatever you do, wherever you go — think Marvel! ●

IT HAD TO HAPPEN!

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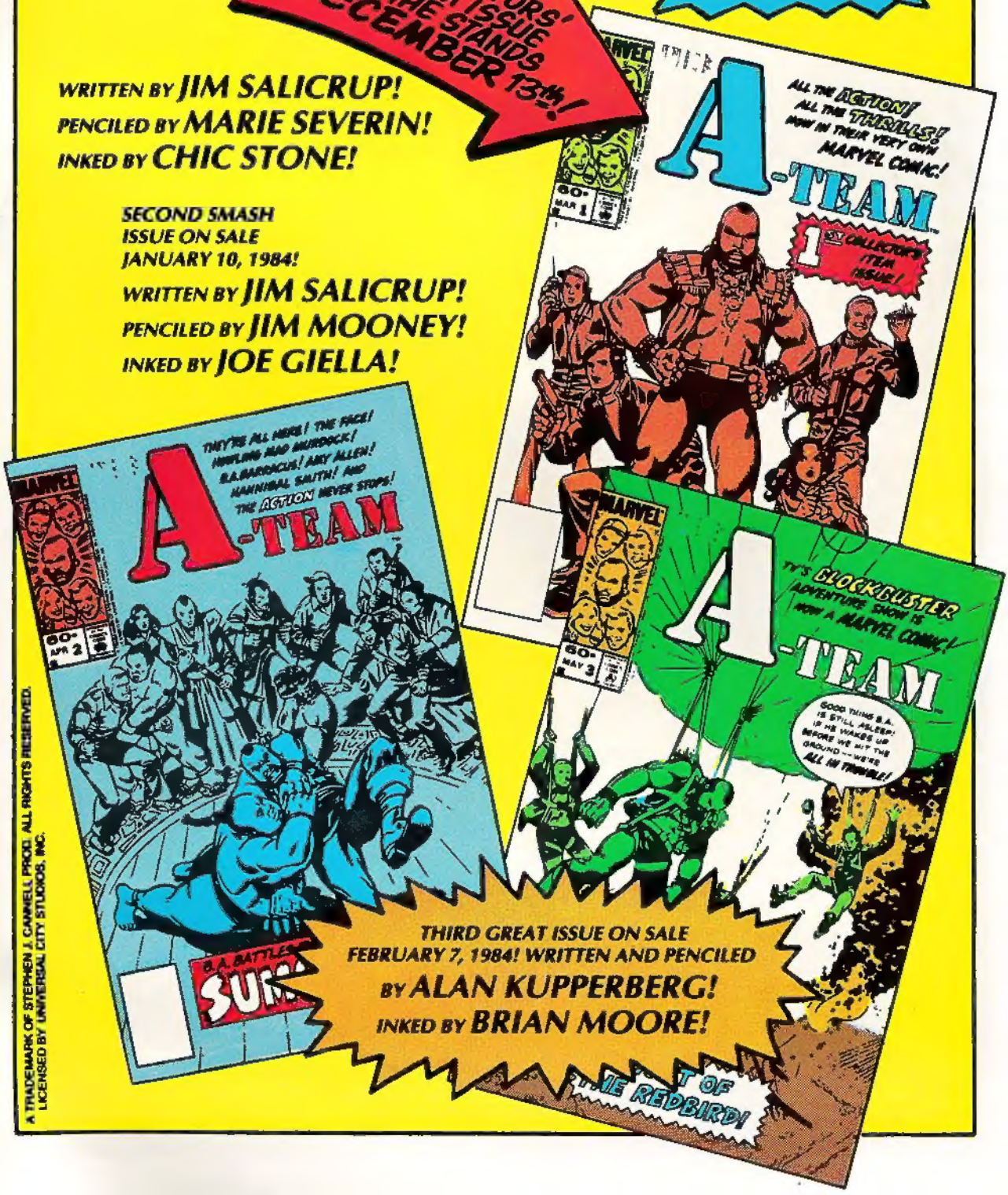
PENCILED BY MARIE SEVERIN!
INKED BY CHIC STONE!

SECOND SMASH ISSUE ON SALE JANUARY 10, 1984!
WRITTEN BY JIM SALICRUP!
PENCILED BY JIM MOONEY!
INKED BY JOE GIELLA!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1ST COLLECTORS ITEM ISSUE!
THEY'RE ALL HERE! THE FACE! HOWLING MAD MURDOCK! B.A. BARACUS! ABEY ALLEN! HANNIBAL SMITH! AND THE ACTION NEVER STOPS!
A-TEAM
TV'S BLOCKBUSTER ADVENTURE SHOW IS NOW A MARVEL COMIC!
A-TEAM
GOOD THING B.A. IS STILL ASLEEP! IF HE WAKES UP BEFORE WE HIT THE GROUND — WE'RE ALL IN TROUBLE!
B.A. BATTLES SUR
T OF
IE REDBIRD!

THIRD GREAT ISSUE ON SALE FEBRUARY 7, 1984! WRITTEN AND PENCILED BY ALAN KUPPERBERG!
INKED BY BRIAN MOORE!

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